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Letter dated 17 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of April, and on behalf of the representatives of the States members of that Group, I should like to convey to you the extreme disquiet which the Group has expressed with regard to the visit paid to the island of Abu Musa by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, on Wednesday, 11 April 2012. That island belongs to the United Arab Emirates and has been occupied by Iran since 1971. It is the first occasion on which an Iranian official of this level has visited the occupied islands.

The Arab Group, which proceeds in accordance with resolutions adopted at the summit level by the League of Arab States, all of which refuse to accept and call for an end to the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the three Arab islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which belong to the United Arab Emirates, rejects and strongly condemns the visit of the Iranian President, considering it to be a serious escalation and provocative step. That step is one more in a series of illegitimate measures that have been taken in the islands by Iran with a view to forcibly cementing its occupation thereof and imposing the status quo, in flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and rules of international law.

The Arab Group, on the basis of its unconditional belief in the absolute sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over those three islands and support for all peaceful measures and means that the Emirates Government has taken to regain sovereignty over them, including the initiative whereby it called for the issue to be resolved by direct negotiations or by recourse to the International Court of Justice, stresses that Iran should refrain from repeating any such unilateral acts, which do not help to build trust, but, on the contrary, increase tension and instability in the region.

The Arab Group affirms that it is important that Iran should demonstrate genuine good faith in regard to what it has stated is its desire to improve relations with the Arab States, and take all necessary constructive measures in response to the earnest and sincere efforts that the United Arab Emirates continues to exert, with the support of the League of Arab States, with a view to reaching a just and permanent resolution of the issue of the occupation of its islands that accords with international

conventions and instruments and will ensure that friendly and cooperative relations are instituted between Iran and the Arab States.

We would appreciate it if the present letter could be circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Al-Jarman**
Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates
Chairman of the Arab Group